

**INFORMATION PAPER
ON
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS / DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION INTEGRATED PRODUCT TEAM**

ISSUE: The Department of Defense (DoD) cannot conduct all Graduate Medical Education (GME) training at Defense Health Agency (DHA) facilities, as the DHA does not have the clinical capability at all locations (e.g., burn patients) or the volume of patients is insufficient. DHA GME programs use local civilian hospitals and Veterans Affairs (VA) hospitals to meet training requirements.

BACKGROUND: In August 2023, the VA/DoD GME Integrated Product Team (VA/DoD GME IPT) was formed to address the issue. This IPT was chartered to identify DoD GME training gaps, identify VA health care priorities that align to these gaps, and provide recommendations for rotations at VA hospitals and future shared/joint programs that are mutually beneficial to both Departments.

DISCUSSION: There are currently 36 DHA GME programs that have rotations at VA hospitals. Two DHA GME programs have VA-funded residents in addition to DoD residents. Analyses are currently underway to identify additional rotation opportunities as well as including VA patients at DHA facilities. The IPT is also identifying barriers to collaboration as well as solutions. One solution is being implemented—using DoD Common Access Cards (CAC) to access VA computer systems instead of a VA-issued Personal Identity Verification (PIV). This technique eliminates another security clearance and fingerprinting in addition to having to issue the PIV card itself. The IPT will continue its work for at least two years.